



News Release

For Immediate Release

July 22, 2002

Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol Receives Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service

Second Time in his over 30-year career that he receives this Prestigious Award

WASHINGTON – In recognition of his role in changing the way the nation looks at border enforcement, Gustavo De La Viña, Chief of the Border Patrol for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), has been awarded the Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service.



Gus De La Viña, Chief, United States Border Patrol

“Chief De La Viña led the design and implementation of a strategy that emphasizes deterrence of illegal immigration by concentrating resources in major corridors of illegal immigration. This fundamental change has brought about dramatic improvements in the quality of life for persons living on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border,” said INS Commissioner James Ziglar.

Gustavo De La Viña was appointed Chief of the United States Border Patrol in December 1997. As the nation's highest ranking Border Patrol agent, Chief De La Viña directs the immigration enforcement efforts of more than 9,800 Border Patrol agents nationwide.

In July of 1994, Chief De La Viña received the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award for “Exceptional Leadership.” In December 1999, the President of the United States conferred the rank of Distinguished Executive in the Senior Executive Service to Chief De La Viña for “extraordinary accomplishment in management of programs of the United States Government.”

Photo available electronically. Contact the INS Press Office on 202-305-0843.